

REMARKS

Claims 1-30, 32-35, 37-44, and 55 are pending and were rejected. Claims 1, 29, 32-35, 37-39 and 55 have been amended. Claims 31, 36, 45-54 and 56-58 have been canceled. Claims 59-60 are new.

The Examiner objected to the length of the Abstract. Applicants have amended the Abstract to address the Examiner's concerns regarding the length of the Abstract.

Claims 1-12 Are Not Anticipated by Johnson

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,366,578 issued to Johnson, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "the host processor being configured to selectively transmit an attend signal to the at least one of the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device." Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in Figures 8A-8J and the accompanying description thereof in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner appears to identify processor 70 of Figure 3 of Johnson as the recited host processor, packet bus 80A as the recited broadcast-capable switch, and computers 24 as the recited first and second broadcast-packet-processing devices. There is no teaching or suggestion in Johnson of the processor 70 being "configured to selectively transmit an attend signal" to any of the devices identified as computer 24, or to any other device. Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 are not anticipated by Johnson.

In addition, dependent claim 11 recites the "first broadcast-packet-processing device comprises: an address-assignment-recognition device." Claim 12 recites the "second broadcast-packet-processing device comprises: an address-assignment-recognition device." The Examiner points to column 7, lines 21-47. The cited portion of Johnson discusses in general terms the desirability of self-configuring networks. There is no discussion in the cited portion of Johnson of a computer 24, or any other device, comprising "an address assignment recognition device." Thus, claims 11 and 12 are allowable for the additional reason that Johnson does not

teach or suggest a broadcast-packet-processing device comprising “an address assignment recognition device,” as recited.

Claim 55 Is Not Anticipated by O’Toole

The Examiner rejected claims 53-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,345,294 issued to O’Toole, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection. Claims 53-54 and 56-58 have been canceled. Claim 55 has been restated in independent form, but has not otherwise been amended. Claim 55, as amended, recites, “A method comprising: receiving a broadcast packet having an initial boot-up message; determining that boot-control code has previously been executed; and sending an acknowledgment.” The Examiner points to column 12, lines 42-64 of O’Toole as teaching the recited “determining that boot-control code has previously been executed; and sending an acknowledgment.” There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited portion of O’Toole of “determining that boot-control code has previously been executed; and sending an acknowledgment.” Instead, the cited portion of O’Toole discusses how appliance registry 28 responds to a request for ownership information from an appliance. There is no mention of any determination of whether “boot-control code has previously been executed,” as recited. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 55 is not anticipated by O’Toole. New independent claim 59 similarly recites “when boot-control code has previously been executed.” New claim 60 depends from new claim 59. Accordingly, new claims 59 and 60 are allowable for reasons similar to the reasons why claim 55 is allowable.

Claims 13-28 Are Not Anticipated by Walker

The Examiner rejected claims 13-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,862,338 issued to Walker, et. al. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s rejection.

Independent claims 13 and 21 recite, “A method comprising: directing at least one of a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode; directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode; transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device; directing the second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a

process-initial-address-assignment mode; and transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device" (or similar language). As an initial matter, the Examiner points to disparate bits and pieces of Walker, instead of pointing to a coherent disclosure of the recited limitations, which is not present in Walker. In addition, the Examiner fails to identify teachings in Walker of the particulars of the method recited in claim 13 and of the system recited in claim 21.

Walker is fundamentally different that the recited method and system, and no better than the prior art cited in the specification. Walker teaches away from the claimed invention because the devices in Walker are hardwired during manufacture to have a specific address. See Walker at column 50, lines 15-37. The devices in Walker do not have an "ignore-initial-address-assignment mode" and a "process-initial-address-assignment mode," as recited.

Turning to the specifics, the Examiner points to the discussion of broadcast packets at column 6, line 52 through column 7, line 10 as teaching the recited "directing [a device] to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode." There is no discussion in the cited portion of Walker of address assignment, let alone of any device being directed "to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode," as recited. Similarly, the Examiner points to column 50, lines 15-37, as teaching the recited "directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode." The cited portion of Walker discusses how devices are hardwired to have a particular addresses during manufacture. There is no discussion of devices having initial address assignment modes, let alone "directing" a device to enter "a process-initial-address-assignment mode," as recited. Further, the Examiner points to a discussion of the header of BC packet 942 at column 50, lines 26-61 as teaching "transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message" intended for the first [and second] broadcast-packet-processing devices. There is no discussion of the payload of BC packet 942 in the cited portion of Walker, and thus no teaching that the payload has "an address-assignment message" as recited.

Claims 14-20 depend from claim 13 and claims 22-28 depend from claim 21, and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-28 are not anticipated by Walker.

Claims 29-38 Are Not Anticipated by Krause

The Examiner rejected claims 29-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,590,285 issued to Krause, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Claims 29 and 34, as amended, recite "A method comprising: receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having an specific-address assignment message; accepting an address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message; and sending an acknowledgment upon completion of said accepting the address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message" (or similar language). Claims 29 and 34 have been amended to include, respectively, the limitations of claims 31 and 36.

Krause is fundamentally different that the recited method of claim 29 and system of claim 34. Krause, like Walker, teaches away from the claimed invention because the devices in Krause are hardwired during manufacture to have specific addresses. The asserted novelty in Krause is that the devices are hardwired to have two (or more) specific addresses during manufacture. See Krause at column 2, lines 25-36 and column 8, lines 7-17. The portions of Krause to which the Examiner cites discuss how a device reacts when a packet is received that has one of the addresses assigned to the device. Krause does not teach or suggest "accepting an address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message" as recited. Claims 30 and 32-33 depend from claim 29 and claims 35 and 37 depend from claim 34. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 29-30, 32-35 and 37 are not anticipated by Krause.

Claims 39-41 Are Not Anticipated by Baker

The Examiner rejected claims 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,081,852 issued to Baker. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 39 recites, "a first multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device, operably coupled with the packet switch; and a second multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device, operably coupled with the packet switch." The Examiner does not identify specific devices in Baker that allegedly correspond to the claimed devices. The Examiner appears to contend that host CPU 44 corresponds to the claimed

host processor, PCI serial bus interface 20 corresponds to the claimed packet switch, and PCI agents 30 and 32 correspond to the claimed multi-channel devices. The Examiner cites to column 5, lines 14-25, column 6, lines 13-23, column 7, lines 10-27, column 29, lines 35-50, and PCI agents 30 and 32 in Figure 1. There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited portions of Baker that either PCI agent 30 or PCI agent 32 is a “multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device,” as recited. Claims 40-41 depend from claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 39-41 are not anticipated by Baker.

Claims 42-44 are Not Rendered Obvious By Baker In View of Brooks

The Examiner rejected claims 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Baker in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0039600, by Brooks, et al. Claims 42-44 depend from claim 39. As discussed above, Baker does not teach or suggest a “multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device.” The Examiner does not contend that the missing teaching is provided by Brooks. Further, paragraph 31 of Brooks merely suggests that a programmable MAC could be implemented with a pair of processors. There is no teaching or suggestion of a packet processing device being “uniquely coupled” with a multi-channel device, as recited in claims 42 and 43. Claim 44 depends from claim 43. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 42-44 are not rendered obvious by Baker in view of Brooks.

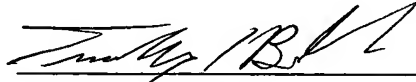
The Examiner also rejected claims 45-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,064 issued to Cowan. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection. Nevertheless, claims 45-52 have been canceled, rendering the Examiner’s rejection moot.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 10/055,529
Reply to Office Action dated May 31, 2005

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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